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## UNITED STATES.

[Reports to the Supervising Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

*Yellow fever at Whistler, Ala.*

MOBILE, ALA., January 4, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to state that there was a death from yellow fever (Mrs. R.) at Whistler, Ala., on December 27, and that another adult case occurred last week. There were several other recognized cases there during December.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. D. MURRAY,  
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

*Smallpox in Birmingham, Ala.*

[Telegram.]

WASHINGTON, December 31, 1897.

Have request from mayor of Birmingham, seconded by State health officer and the governor, for service action in suppressing smallpox in Birmingham, Ala. When relieved by Stewart proceed immediately to Birmingham, confer with Mayor Evans. Make full report upon the whole situation, and recommendations.

WYMAN,  
Surgeon-General.

Passed Assistant-Surgeon MAGRUDER,  
Marine-Hospital Service, Memphis, Tenn.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., January 4, 1898.

SIR: In obedience to your telegraphic order of December 31, I reached this city to-day, and after a visit to the quarantine hospital in company with Mayor Evans and City Physician Wilder, I inquired as thoroughly as the limited time would allow into the existing status of the smallpox epidemic.

The quarantine camp is located  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the city and consists of one ward, 20 by 100 feet; two buildings of four rooms each (rooms 16 by 18 feet); a small kitchen and storeroom, and three or four wall tents. The buildings are badly constructed, of the worst material and are all overcrowded. About one-half mile from the quarantine hospital is located Camp Evans, in which persons who have been exposed to infection or who had not been vaccinated prior to exposure are detained sixteen days before being discharged. They are housed in a frame building 20 by 40 feet, and a smaller building is used as kitchen and quarters for guards. Both camps are under the general control of Dr. Wilder, city physician, who visits them daily. An undergraduate in medicine is in immediate charge at each camp.

The disease has existed here in epidemic form since the middle of July, and the total number of cases to date is 406. Total number of deaths, 15; total number treated in camp, 375; total number treated at home, 31; total number now in camp, 85.

Most of the cases have been discrete, and the low mortality will show how mild the disease has been.

Jefferson County, in which Birmingham is situated, comprises about 900 square miles and contains a population of about 110,000. Half of this population resides in Birmingham and the remaining half in mining camps and towns, varying in population from 50 to 10,000, scattered over the county. The negroes, to whom the disease is almost exclusively confined (only about 8 to 10 whites having contracted it), here, as elsewhere, are the great carriers of infection. Essentially itinerant, they travel from mining camp to mining camp, from town to town and carry the disease with them, so that during the month of December cases were reported from twenty-one towns and camps and in the county, and adjacent counties are also reported as infected, though statistics from these are not at hand. Vaccination is compulsory and has been quite thoroughly practiced in Birmingham, I am informed, but in the county it has been more or less neglected and as a result the disease, while diminishing somewhat in Birmingham, especially during the latter weeks of December, is increasing in the county towns. Exhibit A will show the cases occurring in Birmingham and the county monthly since July, while Exhibit B gives cases occurring weekly during December, and also shows the towns in the county in which they occurred.

Jefferson County, with the towns and cities within its limits, including Birmingham, is under the sanitary control of the county medical society, which is, by State law, the county board of health, and the request for service aid is not for Birmingham alone, but for all the towns within the county limits.

The local authorities have expended all available funds and are now anxious for the Service to assume entire control and bear all the expense.

In accordance with your instructions, I informed the mayor that if the Service took charge the camp would have to be enlarged by the erection of two more wards 30 by 80 feet, and other buildings which I specified, the camp equipment completed, and the bedding, etc., destroyed in disinfection, replaced at the expense of city and county; that the Service would bear the expense of administration only. He replied that he had no doubt the board of aldermen and county commissioners would agree to this, and a meeting would be called to-morrow to consider the matter.

In case the Service should take charge I would recommend that a house-to-house inspection of the city be made at once; all cases of small-pox be moved to the quarantine hospital or kept under guard, and persons exposed to infection who have not been vaccinated successfully be removed to Camp Evans or kept under daily observation (the State laws do not permit forcible removal of patient or suspect from his home provided he pays cost of guard), and infected houses be immediately disinfected. In order that this be done as quickly as possible I recommend the employment of about 30 inspectors, at a cost of \$4 per day; 3 physicians, at a cost of \$8 per day and expenses, 1 of whom shall be located at camp, and the remaining 2 shall superintend disinfection of houses and examine and diagnose all cases of sickness reported by the inspectors.

As inspectors, I propose to employ a number of second course medical students, some of whom have already been employed in this work by the city authorities, and who shall examine vaccination marks of all persons as they inspect, and vaccinate where necessary.

My time will be occupied at first in organizing camp and instructing inspectors and disinfectors in their various duties, and as soon as possible, I would suggest that I visit (if I am kept in charge) the remaining

infected points, and either pursue the same course, or follow whatever plan seems best; and it is to aid in this work that two or three regular officers could be employed to great advantage, especially as I am informed that adjacent counties will probably soon call on the Service for aid. One regular office should also be stationed at camp. Two stewards will be needed, one at camp and one in town to keep accounts, and in looking after the inspectors, and if need be, to take charge of the house disinfection. Many of the stewards, especially those who have had quarantine experience, could be more easily taught than a green physician, are better disciplined, and would cost less.

From the above, it will be seen that owing to the numerous and widely disseminated foci of infection, the itinerant character of the negro, his dread of vaccination and the danger of reinfection from adjacent counties, the work is one of unusual magnitude and difficulty.

Very respectfully,

G. M. MAGRUDER,

*Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

[Inclosures.]

EXHIBIT A.—*Cases of smallpox occurring in Birmingham and Jefferson County during the following months.*

1897.	Cases occurring in Birmingham.	Cases in the remaining cities of Jefferson County.	1897.	Cases occurring in Birmingham.	Cases in the remaining cities of Jefferson County.
July .....	64	0	October .....	0	8
August .....	85	33	November .....	26	34
September .....	24	4	December .....	38	108

EXHIBIT B.—*Cases of smallpox occurring in Birmingham and other cities of Jefferson County during December, 1897.*

Places.	Week ended—					Totals.	Estimated population.
	Dec. 7	Dec. 14	Dec. 21	Dec. 28	Dec. 31		
Birmingham.....	13	13	3	5	4	38	50,000
Blossburg.....	3	4	4	2	0	13	1,000
Pratt City.....	2	5	2	6	1	16	6,000
Woodlawn.....	5	1	5	0	0	11	3,000
Smithfield.....	1	0	3	0	0	4	
Bessemer.....	1	0	0	2	0	3	10,000
Dolomite.....	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Enon Ridge.....		9	8	5	1	23	
Horn Creek.....		1				1	
Alice Furnace.....		1	0	0	0	1	
North Birmingham.....		1			1	2	500
Brighton.....	1		1	2	1	5	500
Gate City.....			1	2		3	
Ensley City.....			1			1	2,000
Fountain Heights.....				1		1	
Newcastle.....				1		1	
Ishkooda.....			1			1	
Warrior.....				1		1	3,000
Woodward.....					10	10	1,000
Mary Lee.....	6					6	300
Leeds.....	4					4	
Totals.....	27	35	28	28	18	146	

[Telegram.]

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., *January 6, 1898.*

Visited Bessemer to-day, 42 cases to date; 20 now in pesthouse, 11 reported during past week, 2 to-day, vaccination not compulsory, but

will be made so. Population poorly protected by vaccination. Several large mines employing several thousand negroes in radius of three miles; few vaccinated. All camps infected; 3 cases to-day in Birmingham. Will report decision of city council to-morrow.

MAGRUDER.

*Case of smallpox on steamship Southwark.*

NEW YORK, January 7, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to report that 1 case of smallpox, a child 2 years old, was this day removed from the steamship *Southwark* by the health officer at the New York quarantine, together with 24 steerage passengers, who occupied the compartments in which the disease occurred.

The remainder of the passengers, 55 in number, have this day been landed at this port, after disinfection reported by the health officer. Notifications are sent by the Commissioner of Immigration to health authorities of States to which such immigrants are destined.

Respectfully, yours,

GEO. W. STONER,  
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

*One case of smallpox in Wilmington, N. C.*

[Telegram.]

WILMINGTON, N. C., January 12, 1898.

Dr. Thomas informs me 1 case of smallpox was discovered here this morning in S. Johnson, brakeman, Atlantic Coast Line. Eruption developed last night. Probably contracted in South Carolina. Case isolated. All known exposed parties quarantined and precautions taken. I will vaccinate all sailors applying. Send 100 vaccine points.

WERTENBAKER,  
Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

*Smallpox in the United States as reported to the Supervising Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service, January 1 to January 14, 1898.*

Places.	Date.	Cases.	Deaths.	Remarks.
Alabama:				
Bessemer.....	To Jan. 6.....	42	.....	
Birmingham.....	Jan. 6-Jan. 8....	11	.....	
New York:				
Deposit.....	Nov. 1-Nov. 30...	1	.....	
North Carolina:				
Wilmington.....	Jan. 12.....	1	.....	